

Application No. 10/796,945
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

38. (New) An information acquiring method, comprising:

(i) optically reading a coded image from a printed matter using a reading device of an access device, said printed matter having first information and the coded image printed thereon;

5 wherein the first information includes at least one of characters, signs, graphics, painted pictures, photographic pictures and computer graphics printed in a form of a visually readable image; and

10 wherein the coded image includes second information which is different from the first information and which is coded into coded data and printed in the coded image, and control information which is coded and included in the coded image;

(ii) decoding the coded second information and coded control information included in the read coded image;

15 (iii) outputting, via an output unit of the access device, information for inputting operation instructions to direct the access device to execute a set of operations, in accordance with the decoded control information;

20 (iv) discriminating whether a user has inputted the operation instructions;

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(v) if the user has inputted the operation instructions, directing the access device to execute the set of operations, said operations comprising:

accessing an external information source via a
25 telecommunications network;
acquiring third information different from the first information and the second information from the external information source; and
outputting the acquired third information via the
30 output unit.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the output unit comprises an image display unit, and the information for inputting the operation instructions comprises an image for inputting the operation instructions to direct the access device to execute the set of operations.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the image for inputting the operation instructions comprises a link icon.

41. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the output unit comprises a speaker, and the information for inputting the operation instructions comprises sound for

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inputting the operation instructions to direct the access device
to execute the set of operations.

42. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the first information comprises basic information, the second information comprises detailed information relating to the basic information, and the third information comprises up-to-date information relating to the basic information.

43. (New) An information acquiring system comprising:

(i) a reading device for optically reading a coded image from a printed matter, said printed matter having first information and the coded image printed thereon;

5 wherein the first information includes at least one of characters, signs, graphics, painted pictures, photographic pictures and computer graphics printed in a form of a visually readable image; and

 wherein the coded image includes second information
10 which is different from the first information and which is coded into coded data and printed in the coded image, and control information which is coded and included in the coded image;

 (ii) a decoding unit which decodes the coded second
information and the coded control information included in the
15 coded image read by the reading device;

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(iii) an output unit which outputs information for inputting operation instructions to direct an access device to execute a set of operations, in accordance with the decoded control information;

20 (iv) an operation unit via which a user inputs the operation instructions; and

(v) a discriminating unit which discriminates whether the operation instructions are inputted by the user;

25 wherein when the discriminating unit determines that the operation instructions have been input, the access device is directed to execute the set of operations, said operations comprising:

accessing an external information source via a telecommunications network;

30 acquiring third information different from the first information and the second information from the external information source; and

outputting the acquired third information via the output unit.

44. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the output unit comprises an image display unit, and the information for inputting the operation instructions comprises an image for

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inputting the operation instructions to direct the access device to execute the set of operations.

45. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the image for inputting the operation instructions comprises a link icon.

46. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the output unit comprises a speaker, and the information for inputting the operation instructions comprises sound for inputting the operation instructions to direct the access device to execute the set of operations.

47. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the first information comprises basic information, the second information comprises detailed information relating to the basic information, and the third information comprises up-to-date information relating to the basic information.